



ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE, SPCA

"... in behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves but depend on honorable men and women for kindness, mercy and justice"

POST OFFICE BOX 8257 • PITTSBURGH, PA 15218 • (412) 244-1372 • HOURS TO 5:30 p.m. DAILY



9198 '99 MAR 17 10 05 AM
EDWARD J. BLOTZER, JR.
Chief Humane Society Police Officer

HON. MICHAEL FRIEDMAN, M.D.
Commissioner, FOOD AND DRUG ADM.
Dockets Management Branch, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Sir:

There is a petition before the USF&D Administration and the U. S. Department of Agriculture that will help ~~the~~ "downer" animals, animals too sick or injured to walk.

Because only animals who reach the slaughterhouse alive can be used for human consumption, owners make more money selling live animals, no matter how ill or injured, than the dead ones.

The petition asks the FDA and USDA to classify meat from downed animals as adulterated, such a classification would afford owners ~~the~~ NO incentive for prolonging the suffering of downed animals.

Also with the increasing incidence of mad cow disease and other food safety risks, the issue of downed animals is no longer simply a matter of animals suffering but of consumer health as well.

The meat from just one diseased cow can contaminate up to sixteen tons of mass-produced meat.

We, and other animal protection groups, including the FARM SANCTUARY (for neglected/abused farm animals) support this petition.

May I have your opinion/thoughts on this situation.

Humanely,

EDWARD J. BLOTZER, JR.,
President (since 1970).

98P-0151

C1922



WHY HELP ANIMALS? OR: AREN'T PEOPLE MORE IMPORTANT?

People who work hard in many ways to improve animal welfare are familiar with the harsh criticisms directed against their participation in the cause. Many critics say, "There are plenty of people, particularly children who need help. Why not devote yourself to them?" In many cases, these critics are not even involved in charitable work of any kind.

While it is true that many cruelties and heartless acts are being perpetrated against humans by humans, this does not lessen the horrific persecution and suffering of animals.

The use of animals in needless cosmetic research projects is particularly repugnant. This type of "research" often involves prolonged, agonizing experiments, lifelong caging, restraining devices, etc. The systematic torture of defenseless creatures claims the lives of millions of animals each year in our nation alone. Additional millions suffer at the hands of cruel humans as the animals are trapped, maimed, and murdered in the name of sportsmanship or in the pursuit of a fashionable garment.

Those who are sensitive enough to be distressed by animal suffering are, of course, distressed by human suffering too, and many are involved with human charities. It should not be forgotten that many significant and social reforms (like child protection legislation) were helped along by people who also loved animals.

Those who are dedicated to helping the less fortunate, whether they be human or non-human, usually do not denounce others similarly involved – and recognize the need in helping both.

Kindness to humans and non-humans is not a question of priority – but rather of being consistent. If a person has the ability to feel compassion, it is usually not restricted to one situation of one species. One can enjoy children, animals, flowers, clean air, clean water, and other beautiful things in this world without *specializing* in one. Similarly, one can feel strongly about human rights and animal rights with the same amount of fervor. Perhaps the critics should not condemn those who feel they must do something to help animals – they should instead redirect their criticism to the fellow in the mirror who does nothing at all for anyone.

Courtesy: PROGRESSIVE ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY
Distributed: Animal Care and Welfare, SPCA
PO BOX 8257
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
(412) 244-1372

CRUELTY CONNECTION CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHTS LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL AND HUMAN VIOLENCE

Our efforts to improve the welfare of animals in our community took a giant leap on November 7.

Approximately 130 people — social workers, psychologists, police, lawyers, veterinarians and teachers from Pennsylvania, New York, California, Canada and Japan — came to the University of Pennsylvania to learn about the connection between animal abuse, child abuse and family violence.

Many others heard about the conference through stories in the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Daily News.

The Cruelty Connection conference was sponsored by the PSPCA and the Center for the Interactions of Animals and Society at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

It was organized by Vicki Mehl, PSPCA Director of Education and Dr. James Serpell, Director of the Center.

A prestigious list of speakers formed the conference faculty: Dr. Frank Ascione, a professor at Utah State University, who serves on the Scientific Advisory Council of the Humane Society of the United States and the Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Project of the Latham Foundation; Dr. Gary Patronek, Director of the Tufts University Center for Animals and Public Policy; Dr. Richard Gelles, new Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania; Howard Davidson, Esq., Director of the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law.

These speakers, along with others, educated the audience about the tangled web of abuse in families in crisis.

Case histories and research statistics all graphically illustrated the tragic connection between the dog who gets kicked for wetting on the floor and the wife who gets hit for asking the wrong question or the child who targets his neighbor's cat first and his classmates later.

Connections between our treatment of animals and our treatment of our fellow human beings seem obvious; there is much

evidence of this, especially within the personal histories of lifelong criminals who started on the path of violent behavior very early in their lives with animals and moved on to other children and adults.

Now we move toward solutions that target correcting violent and abusive behavior *earlier*. This means that animal abuse cannot be dismissed as an unimportant or irrelevant act. In families where animals are abused, children, spouses and elders are also likely to be victims.

Cross-reporting of investigation authorities may be the standard in the future. For example, when humane officers investigate animal abuse and see an elderly person or young child in the dwelling, this could be reported to the appropriate agencies to monitor the well-being of the people. Our Humane Officers do this already if they see evidence of abuse of humans in the household.

The conference evaluations were all extremely complimentary, but the real measure of success is in actions, not just opinions.

Because of our efforts, more people are taking the issue of animal abuse more seriously. As a result of the conference, the Philadelphia Department of Human Services has redesigned their intake surveys for child abuse and domestic violence to include questions about animal abuse.

There are efforts underway to use this new form as a standard model for the State of Pennsylvania. And at the Philadelphia Community College, Professor Sandy Folzer is now including the animal abuse link in her professional classes for social workers.

These are dramatic changes that have happened in one month's time. Through our participation in Philadelphia's Family Violence Coordinating Council and our teacher training programs, the PSPCA will continue to make a difference for animals.

---Vicki Mehl,

Director of Humane Education

Credits to PA. S.P.C.A. / Philadelphia, PA.

ANIMAL CARE & WELFARE/SPCA

POST OFFICE BOX 8257
PITTSBURGH, PA 15218



IMPORTANT

